

Message Text

SECRET

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10

ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 AID-20 DODE-00 SS-20 DEAE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-14 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SY-10

TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-10 SCI-06 OMB-01 PA-04 PRS-01

EB-11 SAM-01 /141 R

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APPROVED BY EA/TB:JBDEXTER

EA/RA - HISOM (DRAFT)

S/NM - MLAWRENCE

AID/LT - NSWEET (DRAFT)

DOD - PFLINT (SUBST)

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R 230148Z FEB 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

S E C R E T STATE 036744

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, BM, TH

SUBJ: NARCOTICS EQUIPMENT PACKAGE

REFS: (A) RANGOON 0367 (B) BANGKOK 1422 (C) STATE 18507

1. APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED OF APPARENT LEAK ON THIS PROGRAM AS DESCRIBED REFTEL. ALTHOUGH THEY NAMED SINGLE SOURCE FOR THEIR INFORMATION WE THINK US AIRCRAFT MANUFACTURERS' REPRESENTATIVES MAY WELL HAVE OBTAINED DATA FROM VARIOUS SOURCES HAVING KNOWLEDGE OF PROPOSED BURMA PACKAGE. HOWEVER, CONCERNED USG AGENCIES HAVE BEEN CAUTIONED NOT TO DISCUSS PACKAGE WITH PERSONS OUTSIDE USG AS WE SHARE YOUR CONCERN OVER LIKELY GUB SENSITIVITY TO ANY PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF PROGRAM WITHOUT ITS CONCURRENCE.

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2. BY CHANCE, LOCKHEED DIRECTOR FOR INTERNATIONAL MARKETING

DAVID JENSEN, WHO HAD VISITED RANGOON IN NOVEMBER 1972, IN CONNECTION WITH A-4 PROPOSALS, CALLED AT DEPARTMENT FEBRUARY 14 TO REVIEW STATUS OF CURRENT EFFORTS TO INTEREST GUB IN THEIR AIRPLANE. SAID INTER ALIA THAT GUB STILL WANTS "12, 24 OR 36 PLANES", AND REFERRED TO RECENT VISIT OF HIS REP TO RANGOON. JENSEN ALSO REVEALED HE KNEW ABOUT NARCOICS PACKAGE, SAID HE REALIZED IT WAS SENSITIVE SUBJECT AND WE CAUTIONED HIM NOT TO DISCUSS IT WITH OTHERS. HE DID NOT DISCLOSE SOURCE OF HIS INFORMATION.

3. NONETHELESS, DESPITE EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN CONFIDENTIALITY OF THIS PACKAGE, WE CAN EXPECT (AS NOTED REF B) AT LEAST MAJOR ASPECTS OF PACKAGE BECOMING PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE. UNDER FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT, WE ARE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE CONGRESS WITH INFORMATION ON NARCOTICS PROGRAMS ON QUARTERLY BASIS AND FIRST REPORT IS DUE THIS MARCH. WE PROBABLY WILL BE ABLE TO RESTRICT DISCUSSION OF BURMA PACKAGE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION, ESPECIALLY SINCE GUB HAS YET TO RESPOND TO OFFER, BUT BURMESE OFFICIALS SHOULD BE AWARE THAT AS TIME GOES BY SOME FEATURES OF OUR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WILL UNAVOIDABLY BECOME KNOWN TO PUBLIC. USG DOES NOT PLAN TO PUBLICIZE PROGRAM, OF COURSE, BUT WE FULLY EXPECT THAT INTERESTED PEOPLE, INCLUDING BUSINESS REPS, JOURNALISTS AND CONGRESSMEN, WILL FIND MEANS OF OBTAINING INFORMATION ON IT.

4. AS PER REF C, DEPARTMENT CONCURS WITH RECOMMENDATION THAT EMBASSY BANGKOK DEFER BRIEFING SENIOR RTG OFFICIALS ON PACKAGE UNTIL GUB RESPONSE RECEIVED. RUSH

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